enemy in the middle- and lower-middle-classes. Thus, by demonstrating their willingness to throw in their lot with the proletariat, they demonstrated their aristocracy; and even if they were not technically blue-blooded, might regard themselves as one of the 'unconscious, unsuspected aristocrats' to whom, among many others, Mr. "Wells has looked to make the world fit for Mr. Wells to live in.

To such nuances of snobbishness, only a sophisticated few were susceptible; most were content simply to venerate power's obvious manifestations. Titles, money and good looks sufficed for them, and on these, as purveyed by gossip-writers, they feasted. Peers and baronets, even of recent creation, they were glad to know of, and knights had a place in their esteem; for details of clothing worn by the eminent, parties given, marriages arranged and executed among them, they were avid; politicians, authors, church dignitaries even, a practised hand could make interesting by subtly disclosing their earnings, personal appearance, matrimonial or amorous circumstances and drolleries.

When power is an absolute, with no transcendental origin, requiring no sanction other than a human one, those who exercise it must be miraculous. They hold their power by virtue of their own qualities alone; how extraordinary, then, must be those qualities! How extraordinary must they be! To reveal their extraordinariness, was the function of the publicity which, in all its varied forms, ceaselessly played round them. Atticus, in the *Sunday Times,* one fount among many, told

his readers that it would not surprise him to discover Lord Nuffield dancing in the moonlight on the grass, and when M. Blum came to London to persuade the Labour Party not to oppose conscription, mentioned that his step was as light and eager as he imagined Romeo's to have been. Strange moonlight dancer, and strange Romeo—elderly French politician, formerly preoccupied with marriage, and now with conscription.

If Atticus's imagination thus played with philanthropic millionaires and sprightly French politicians, to what heights